

Varied Weather Across State

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending April 25, according to the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service. The week brought a mix of conditions across the State. Farmers in the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula reported cold and wet conditions, while producers in the south portion of the State noted dry conditions. Growers in the Thumb and southern districts also faced unusually windy conditions during the week. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.51 inches in the south central Lower Peninsula to 1.29 inches in the northwest Lower Peninsula. A farmer in the northeast said “Sure be glad when it warms up and hopefully dries out, seems like we’ve been waiting forever.” A producer in the south central noted that in his area, “Field work continues at a good pace, but rain is needed as the topsoil is drying out.”

Field Crops

Tillage was active across much of the State. Many farmers were also spreading fertilizer in preparation of planting operations. Planting progressed in the major crop growing areas. **Corn** planting moved along in the southern districts. Some **soybeans** were also being planted. **Oat** planting moved along and some earlier seedings had emerged. **Sugarbeet** producers have nearly completed planting this year’s crop; however, recent rain showers led to some concerns about crusting over. **Alfalfa** stands appeared to have wintered well, with very little winter kill reported. Much of the **wheat** crop was fertilized and had responded well to the early spring conditions. **Potato** planting continued. Livestock producers continued hauling and spreading manure on this year’s crop ground.

Soil moisture for week ending 04/25/04

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	17	31	45	7
Subsoil	10	30	56	4

Crop condition for week ending 04/25/04

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Pasture	4	13	38	37	8
Winter Wheat	1	1	18	57	23

Fruit

Tree fruits were ahead of normal development last week due to warm temperatures. **Apple** development ranged from tight cluster in the west central, to pink with blossoms exposed in more southern counties. Apple scab infection was observed, and reports suggest a light infection thus far. Stone fruit was reported to be mostly in bloom. Small fruit was reported to be developing nicely. Reports indicated **grape** and **blueberry** bud burst.

Vegetables

Vegetable growers across the State started planting a wide variety of vegetable crops. Dry weather in the southwest allowed farmers to begin planting **turnips** and **radishes**. **Celery** planting in the district was also on schedule. In both the southwest and southeast, growers reported planting **onions** and **carrots**. Producers began planting **cabbage** in the southeast. In the west central, the **asparagus** crop progressed rapidly. Some spears were emerging and growers completed the pre-pick sprays and were mowing the rye cover crop. Processing **spinach** planting neared completion in the west central. Growers also began applying herbicides to a variety of vegetable crops.

Crop progress for week ending 04/25/04

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Barley, planted	25	21	1	33
Barley, emerged	8	NA	NA	NA
Corn, planted	15	5	2	3
Oats, planted	63	58	19	46
Oats, emerged	20	6	3	18
Potatoes, planted	14	9	NA	NA
Soybeans, planted	3	NA	1	1
Sugarbeets, planted	96	90	32	53

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 04/25/04 ¹												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2004	2003	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	55	25		48	79		0.64	1.92	2.34	2.34		
Marquette	57	22		33	69		0.71	1.93	2.54	2.54		
Stephenson	76	23		112	102		1.21	1.90	2.32	2.32		
Western UP	76	19	-4	54	75	54	0.61	1.65	2.09	2.09	1.89	2.28
Cornell	59	22		58	68		0.74	1.20	1.53	1.53		
Sault St Marie	58	27		16	53		0.84	1.33	1.33	1.33		
Eastern UP	59	22	-2	32	60	25	0.63	0.94	1.14	1.13	2.01	2.43
Beulah	64	29		85	122		1.49	2.53	3.33	3.28		
Lake City	64	30		92	132		1.46	3.06	3.62	3.62		
Old Mission	72	28		74	130		1.33	1.80	2.37	2.26		
Pellston	71	28		72	115		1.19	1.70	1.72	1.72		
Northwest	74	28	-1	75	122	71	1.29	2.00	2.45	2.41	2.21	2.69
Alpena	73	24		69	109		0.78	1.23	1.31	1.30		
Houghton Lake	69	30		104	139		0.77	2.51	2.76	2.72		
Rogers City	71	28		85	99		1.10	2.02	2.13	2.12		
Northeast	73	23	0	91	122	64	1.04	2.11	2.24	2.23	2.10	2.52
Fremont	73	32		129	157		0.91	1.62	1.80	1.66		
Hart	70	31		109	136		1.19	1.74	1.98	1.96		
Muskegon	66	35		120	137		0.79	1.55	1.69	1.68		
West Central	73	30	0	113	144	88	0.91	1.62	1.85	1.81	2.54	3.16
Alma	73	35		148	152		0.78	1.26	1.58	1.51		
Big Rapids	70	28		131	153		0.26	0.90	1.39	1.36		
Central	75	28	2	141	153	99	0.71	1.27	1.61	1.54	2.46	3.07
Bad Axe	75	34		122	141		1.38	2.92	3.08	3.04		
Pigeon	73	34		97	144		0.87	2.28	2.37	2.34		
Saginaw	74	37		128	149		0.85	1.16	1.30	1.30		
Standish	74	31		126	131		0.74	2.06	2.52	2.52		
East Central	76	31	2	114	143	96	0.93	1.85	2.10	2.08	2.04	2.55
Fennville	74	32		131	165		0.91	1.04	1.17	1.12		
Grand Rapids	75	35		167	175		1.85	2.14	2.15	2.15		
Holland	73	36		134	173		0.95	1.17	1.20	1.18		
South Bend, IN	76	37		184	199		0.44	0.47	0.58	0.48		
Watervliet	72	35		149	173		0.89	0.89	0.95	0.91		
Southwest	76	32	2	154	186	115	0.92	1.13	1.28	1.17	2.73	3.41
Belding	75	32		140	161		1.17	1.71	1.93	1.86		
Coldwater	73	36		153	172		0.20	0.23	0.32	0.30		
Lansing	74	30		150	176		0.39	0.50	0.64	0.64		
South Central	76	30	2	155	179	115	0.51	0.66	0.84	0.78	2.59	3.19
Detroit	80	43		151	176		0.43	0.50	0.75	0.59		
Flint	77	36		159	179		0.33	0.35	0.56	0.54		
Romeo	79	36		144	162		1.24	1.33	1.70	1.40		
Tipton	78	37		155	165		0.15	0.21	0.31	0.29		
Toledo, OH	81	39		170	229		0.73	0.89	1.11	0.96		
Southeast	84	35	5	151	175	105	0.57	0.64	0.91	0.77	2.67	3.21

¹ Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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